

WEED WATCHERS

CARD GAME
EASY & FAST
4 – 7 PLAYERS

OBJECT

Slap the matching weeds and “pull” them all out of the game.

WILDCARDS

4 each of 16 different invasive plants from **Wisconsin Wildcards: Alien Invaders**

DEAL

Shuffle the cards and deal them facedown one at a time.

PLAY

Everyone: Don’t look at your cards. Hold your cards facedown in your left hand (right hand if you are left-handed).

Dealer: Call out “1 – 2 – 3 – Weed Watcher.”

Everyone: As soon as the dealer says “Weed Watcher,” take one card from your hand and place it faceup on the table in front of you. Look quickly around the table. If you see a card that matches the card you turned over, slap your hand on your card. If you are the first player to slap your hand, you win that round. You can collect the matching cards and any cards that might be underneath them from previous rounds when there wasn’t a match. Add these cards to the bottom of the pile in your hand.

Dealer: Call out “1 – 2 – 3 – Weed Watcher” and the play continues. If there are no matches, the dealer simply calls out again. The winner is the person who collects all the cards from the other players.

WISCONSIN WILDCARDS



ALIEN INVADERS



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SERIES 1 #14

WISCONSIN WILDCARDS



ALIEN INVADERS



JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Polygonum cuspidatum

BASIC ID

This herbaceous perennial has hollow, bamboo-like stems, heart-shaped leaves and greenish-white flowers. It forms large clones that range in height from 4' to 10' and can cover several acres. It spreads vegetatively through long rhizomes.

IMPACTS

Originally from Japan, this plant invades stream banks, lakeshores, wetlands, grasslands, and woodlands. Emerging early and growing tall, it prevents sunlight from reaching native plants.

MANAGEMENT

- Small stands—cut repeatedly over many years
- Large stands—spray new foliage with herbicide

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive

Photo: Elizabeth Czarapata
Recycled paper



JAPANESE STILT GRASS

Microstegium vimineum

BASIC ID

This annual grass looks like a delicate bamboo and can grow up to 3' tall and form dense mats. The stripe of silvery hairs along the midrib of the upper leaf is distinctive. 1"-3" flower spikes appear in September and it sets seed by October.

FACTS

This native of Asia has high seed potential and prefers moist soils in disturbed areas such as floodplains, riverbanks, roadsides, and moist woodlands where the seeds are easily dispersed by water. This presents a major threat to native riparian and forest vegetation.

MANAGEMENT

- Hand pull small populations or mow when blooming before seeds set.
- Herbicide application

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives>

Photo: Luke Flory, Indiana University
Printed on Recycled Paper



JAPANESE HEDGEPARSLEY

Torilis japonica

BASIC ID

This biennial has a taproot, ridged stems and typically grows up to 3' with freely spreading branches. It blooms from July-August with many small 5-petaled white flowers held in umbels. Fruits have many rigid hairs that catch on fur and clothing.

FACTS

Native to Eurasia, it can spread easily in woodlands, roadsides, and open areas where it shades out native plants. Due to the velcro-like hairs on the fruit, seed dispersal is rapid.

MANAGEMENT

- Pull or mow before flowering
- Foliar herbicide treatments are effective in late spring
- Monitor for seedlings

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives>

Photo: Elizabeth J. Czarapata
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BLACK SWALLOW-WORT

Vincetoxicum nigrum

BASIC ID

This perennial vine can twine 3'-6' high with dark green, oval shaped leaves with pointed tips. Small purple flowers have five triangular petals and bloom in June. Slender seed pods (1.5"-3") that are similar to other milkweeds release silky filaments when ripe.

FACTS

Native to Europe, this vine is found in forests, prairies, open fields, and along roadsides where it blankets native plants. This plant can potentially harm monarch populations that lay their eggs on the vine; but larvae cannot survive.

MANAGEMENT

- Remove all seed pods before they open and then burn or landfill to prevent seed release.
- Apply foliar herbicide recommended for swallow-wort.
- If hand dug, all roots must be removed.
- Monitor for continued growth for several years.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives>

Photo: Elizabeth J. Czarapata
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ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET

Celastrus orbiculatus

BASIC ID

This woody vine has rounded leaves and fruits appear in clusters of 2-4 in leaf axils. When ripe, the yellow outer membrane splits exposing a reddish-orange fruit. Stems can reach up to 4" in diameter. Native bittersweet has longer, tapered leaves and larger clusters of red fruits at the end of stems.

FACTS

Native to Asia, this vine starts by smothering the ground layer vegetation and climbs trees, sometimes pulling them down. It can be found in grasslands, roadsides, and forests and can hybridize with American bittersweet posing genetic risk.

MANAGEMENT

- Apply herbicide to cut stems
- Hand pull seedlings or small infestations
- Apply foliar herbicide after first hard frost
- Monitor for regrowth

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives>

Photo: Elizabeth J. Czarapata;
Debbie Maurer (insert)
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AUTUMN OLIVE

Elaeagnus umbellata

BASIC ID

This large shrub can reach heights of 20', with oval-shaped 1" to 3" leaves. Leaves and twigs have coppery/silvery scales. It produces small pink to red fruits late in the season.

IMPACTS

Native to Asia, it has been planted along highways and to provide wildlife habitat. It can become abundant in disturbed areas, fields, prairies, woodlands, and forest edges and crowds out wildflowers, shrubs and tree seedlings.

MANAGEMENT

- Hand-pull young plants in early spring
- Cut stems and apply herbicide to stumps
- In large patches, spray foliage with brush herbicide

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive

Photo: Elizabeth Czarapata
Recycled paper



COMMON REED GRASS

Phragmites australis

BASIC ID

This perennial reed grass, with gray-green leaves, is found most often in large colonies, ranging in height from 6' to 13'. It has a large light-brown to purple flower spike that appears between July and September.

IMPACTS

Every continent except Antarctica has native phragmites species, but research indicates that most aggressive stands are not native. It is found most commonly in and near marshes, swamps, fens, shorelines and roadside ditches, growing in thick patches. It blocks out native species.

MANAGEMENT

- Apply herbicides to young leaves or cut stems
- Cut repeatedly over several years

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive



Photo: Kelly Kearns,
WI DNR
Recycled paper

COMMON BUCKTHORN & GLOSSY BUCKTHORN

Rhamnus cathartica & *Rhamnus frangula*

BASIC ID

Both shrubs can reach 20' tall and have dark bark with silvery marks called lenticels. Common has dull, green, toothed-edged leaves and female plants have dark fruits in fall and winter. The Glossy's leaves are untoothed and shiny on top.

HISTORY

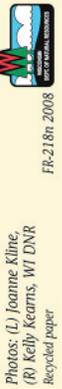
Native to Eurasia, both were introduced in North America as ornamentals. Well-established and spread by seed in WI, they form dense thickets in southern woodlands.

MANAGEMENT

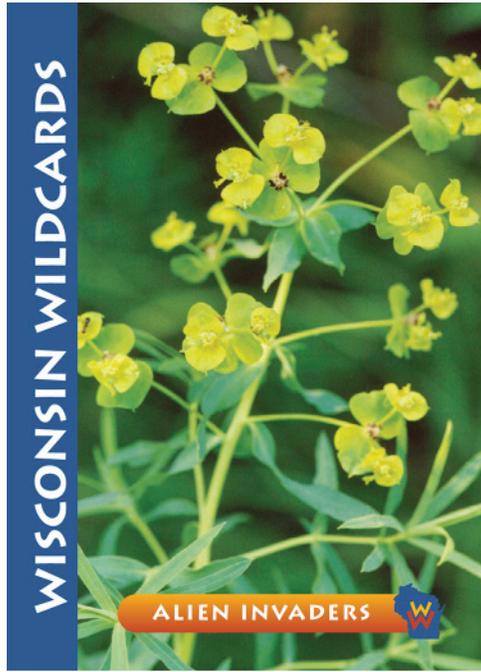
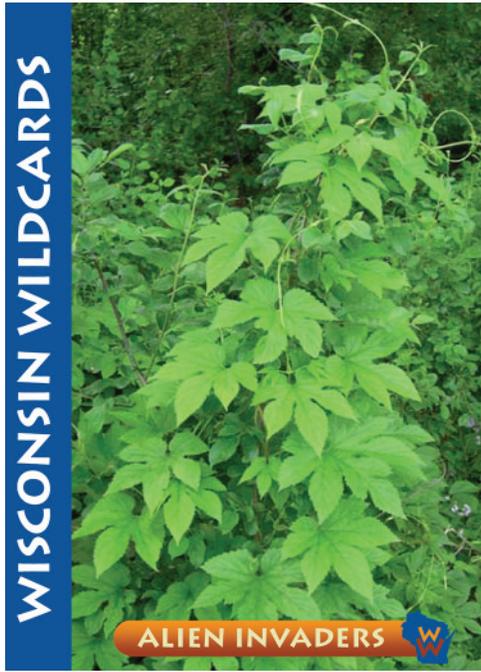
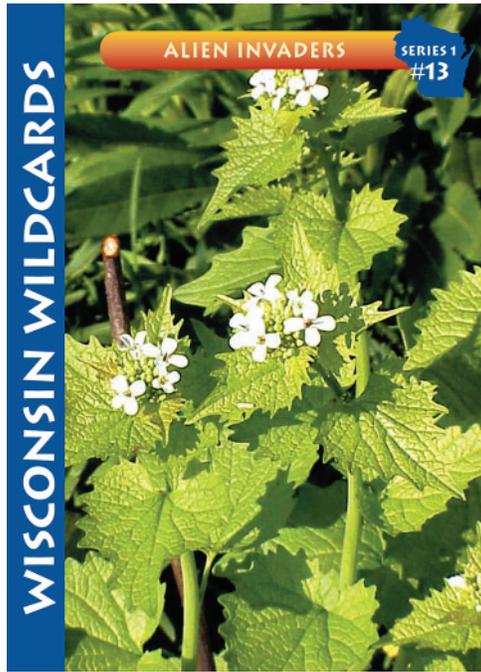
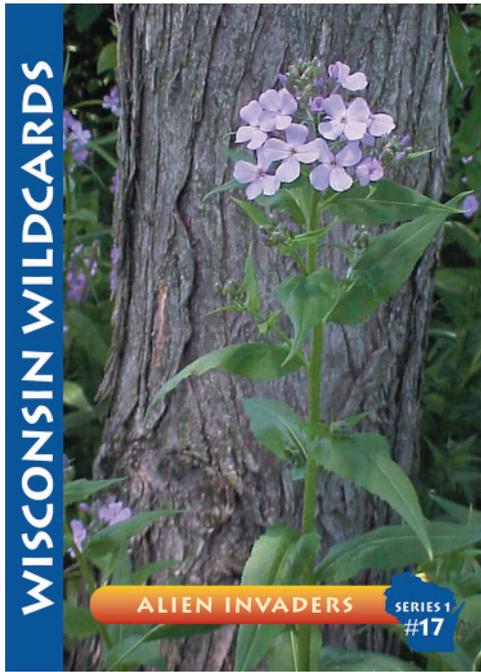
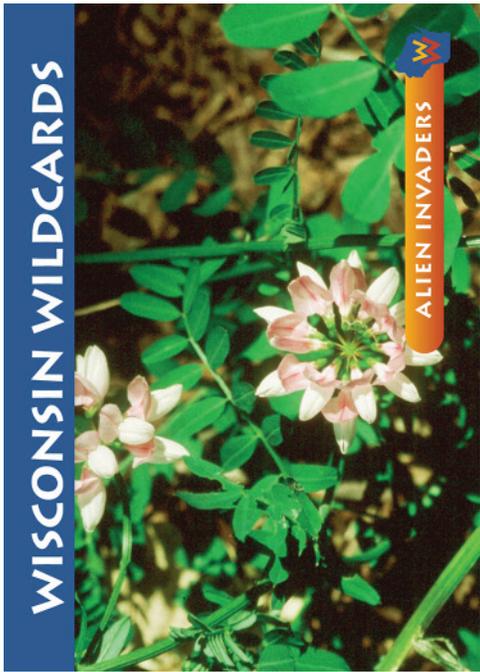
Cut and apply herbicide to trunk in late summer through late winter.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/>



Photos: (L) Joanne Kline,
(R) Kelly Kearns, WI DNR
Recycled paper



GARLIC MUSTARD

Alliaria petiolata

BASIC ID

This cool-season, biennial herb grows 12"-40" tall, has triangular shaped leaves with toothed edges and smells of garlic when crushed. It has clusters of small flowers with 4 petals. First year plants are low rosettes with rounded leaves.

HISTORY

An invasive European species, it prefers forested areas. Rapidly spread by seed, it is a serious problem in forests in eastern and southern WI and is spreading elsewhere.

MANAGEMENT

- Hand pull before flowering or pull and bag up when flowering
- Apply herbicides in early spring or late fall
- Prevent any plants from going to seed

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/>

FR-218m 2009

Photo: Joanne Kline, WI DNR

Funded by USDA-CSREES, grant 2005-45060-03346

Recycled paper



DAME'S ROCKET

Hesperis matronalis

BASIC ID

This showy, short-lived perennial has large, loose clusters of fragrant white, pink or purple 4-petaled flowers that bloom from May-July on 2'-3' stalks.

HISTORY

Native to Eurasia, and used as a garden plant, it can escape into the wild and spread rapidly by seed. It thrives in woodlands, roadsides and open areas.

MANAGEMENT

- Check "wildflower" mixtures before planting
- Pull plants or cut flower heads after they bloom
- Prevent plants from going to seed
- Prescribed burns
- Apply a broadleaf herbicide

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/>

FR-218q 2009

Photo: Joanne Kline, WI DNR

Funded by USDA-CSREES, grant 2006-45060-03702

Recycled paper



CROWN VETCH

Coronilla varia

BASIC ID

This perennial legume has 2'-6' long stems with light pinkish-purple to white flowers. It blooms in summer, and produces long, narrow seedpods.

IMPACTS

Native to Eurasia and Northern Africa, it has been planted along road and waterways as a bank stabilizer. It spreads rapidly via creeping stems and seeds to adjacent grasslands, and grows in dense patches, reducing native species.

MANAGEMENT

- Burn in late spring and then pull, spray, or mow
- Mow in late spring and early fall for several years consecutively
- Apply herbicide specific to legumes or broad-leaf plants

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive

FR-106R 2003

Photo: Kelly Kearns, WI DNR

Recycled paper



LEAFY SPURGE

Euphorbia esula

BASIC ID

This perennial has stems 6"-36" tall, with bluish-green leaves and yellow-green flowers. It has a milky white sap that can cause dermatitis.

IMPACTS

Native to Eurasia, leafy spurge can dominate native grasslands and pastures. It prefers sunlight and dry, light soils but can occur in a wide variety of sites. It is toxic to cattle.

MANAGEMENT

- Hand-pulling is not effective because the entire root system, which can reach 15 feet deep, must be removed
- Apply specific herbicides repeatedly over many years
- Biological control via insects and goats

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive

ER-106T 2003

Photo: Elizabeth Czarapata

Recycled paper



JAPANESE HOPS

Humulus japonicus

BASIC ID

Native hops has 3 lobes and short petioles, while this climbing annual vine (up to 35') generally has 5 lobes on opposite, rough leaves, and petioles (leaf stems) are as long or longer than the length of the leaves. Downward pointing hairs on the stem help the vine wind clockwise. Flowers appear in the leaf axils and have 5 green petals. Male flowers are upright spikes while female flowers hang down in clusters and bloom from mid to late summer.

FACTS

An ornamental native to eastern Asia, this plant prefers moist soils and can form dense stands along roadsides, fields, and stream banks.

MANAGEMENT

- Hand pull and bag before seeds ripen. WEAR GLOVES!
- Foliar spray before plant flowers
- Monitor for regrowth

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives>



Photo: David Eagan, WI DNR

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PUB-FR-477 2011

EXOTIC BUSH HONEYSUCKLES

Tartarian Honeysuckle *Lonicera tatarica*
Morrow's Honeysuckle *Lonicera morrowii*
Bella Honeysuckle *Lonicera x bella*

BASIC ID

All of these multi-stemmed shrubs (3'-10' tall) have shallow roots, oval leaves and fragrant pink, white or yellow flowers. They produce orange or red berries with seeds that are spread by birds.

HISTORY

Native to Eurasia, honeysuckles have been widely planted as ornamentals. They form dense thickets in forests and can thrive in edges and sunny areas.

MANAGEMENT

- Pull or dig up with a leverage tool
- Cut and apply herbicide to stump in fall or winter

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/>

FR-218o 2009

Photo: Joanne Kline, WI DNR

Funded by USDA-CSREES, grant 2005-45060-03346

Recycled paper



SPOTTED KNAPWEED

Centaurea maculosa (syn. *C. biebersteinii*)

BASIC ID

This biennial or short-lived perennial's flowering stems range from 2' to 4' in height. Small thistle-like, pinkish-purple flower heads occur at the tip of each stem.

IMPACTS

Native to Eurasia, it was introduced accidentally through seed stock. It invades roadsides and fields and can be very invasive in dry prairies, barrens, and dunes. It produces a chemical that kills neighboring plants.

MANAGEMENT

- WEAR LEATHER GLOVES—Pulling with bare hands is believed to cause illness!
- Dig or pull entire root system
- Treat with hot prescribed burns
- Apply herbicide specific to broadleaf or composite plants

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive

ER-106U 2003

Photo: WI DNR

Recycled paper



MULTIFLORA ROSE

Rosa multiflora

BASIC ID

Multiflora rose has wide arching canes that grow 5'-12' tall with abundant 1/2"-1 1/2" white blossoms. Compound leaves have a pair of fringed leaf-like appendages at the base, which native roses lack. In shade it may be much shorter and less robust. Native roses have pink flowers.

FACTS

Introduced from Japan, this species was encouraged for wildlife plantings and erosion control. It has since become a serious problem in pastures, grasslands, and woodlands of southern WI.

MANAGEMENT

- Prescribed burns
- Pull with tractor and chains
- Apply herbicide
- Biological controls

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives>

Photo: Dick Bauer, WI DNR

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PUB-FR-218r 2011

